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tions as to their structure, the development of the individual, and the characteristic features of insect life, followed by a discussion of four of the nine orders of Insects, viz. ; Aptera, Orthoptera, Neuroptera and a portion of the Hymenoptera. In these ordinary descriptions Mr. Sharp has incorporated a great deal of interesting information as to the habits and life-histories of various insects, fully demonstrating that fact may be as entertaining as fiction.

**Aquatic Insects.**<sup>10</sup>—This little volume is intended by the author to stimulate young naturalists in observing the habits and structures of living animals, and to try to discover the way in which the machinery of nature works. The writings of the old naturalists, Swammerdam, Réaumur, Lyonnet and De Geer are quoted to show what patient observation can accomplish. Eleven chapters are devoted to as many groups of fresh-water aquatic insects, one to the insects of the sea-shore and one to the peculiar contrivances of aquatic insects for locomotion, for feeding, for respiration, for egg-laying, and for attack and defence.

The drawings are in most cases made direct from the Insects and are a valuable feature of the book.

**Bird-Craft.**<sup>11</sup>—In gathering material for this delightful addition to ornithological literature, its author has certainly had about her that "pocket full of patience" which she recommends to amateur students of bird-life. The chapters on the Spring Song, Building of the Nest, and Birds of Autumn and Winter show a long continued personal acquaintance with the habits of birds. The "Biographies" also contain notes from personal observation.

The illustrations, nearly all colored, add much to the attractiveness of the book.

**Some Elementary Botany.**<sup>12</sup>—Four very pretty books for Children have been compiled by M. C. Cooke and published by T. Nelson & Sons. The writer adopts the conversational style and imparts considerable information to his class concerning a few of the commoner English wild-flowers. A corn-field, a copse, a lane and a marsh afford material for the several books. Each volume is illustrated with a number of figures and one colored plate, and they are altogether attractive additions to literature for children.

<sup>10</sup> *The Natural History of Aquatic Insects.* By L. C. Miall. London and New York, 1895. Macmillan & Co. \$1.75.

<sup>11</sup> *Bird-Craft.* By Mable Osgood Wright. New York, 1895. Macmillan & Co. \$3.00.

<sup>12</sup> *Around a Corn-field. A Stroll in a Marsh. Through the Copse. Down the Lane and Back.* By Uncle Matt (M. C. Cooke), London, Edinburgh and New York, 1895. T. Nelson & Sons, Pub.